

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 SP-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 L-01 RSC-01 /038 W

----- 006179

O 261135Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1601

INFO CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0877

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP, BA

SUBJECT : PROPOSED CNO VISIT TO BAHRAIN

1. CMEF ADMIRAL HANKS, WHO HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE LIAISON ON THIS MATTER, INFORMED ME OCTOBER 24 PRESENT PLAN IS FOR CNO TO ARRIVE BAHRAIN LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 2 TO CALL ON GOB OFFICIALS THAT EVENING, WITH SECOND STOP PLANNED NOV. 7-8 TO BE LIMITED TO MEETINGS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS HERE. UNDERSTAND FROM CMEF THAT DEPARTMENT HAS CONCURRED IN VISIT.

2. ON BASIS THIS INFORMATION I HAVE BEEN TRYING SINCE OCTOBER 24 TO SEE PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS PROPOSED VISIT. FOR REASONS NOTED BELOW THIS VISIT CANNOT BE HANDLED ROUTINELY BY SIMPLY REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS FOR CNO TO CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, BUT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL DISCUSSION WITH PM. WHILE WE WERE SEEING AMIR OFF OCTOBER 25, PM'S CHEF DE CABINET, WHO IS AWARE OF PROPOSED VISIT, TOOK ME ASIDE TO REQUEST THAT MY APPOINTMENT TO SEE PM ON THIS SUBJECT OCTOBER 26 BE DELAYED UNTIL OCTOBER 28.

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HE PLEADED PRESS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, WHICH

IS PLAUSIBLE SINCE THIS IS FIRST WEEK OF SUBSTANTIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTIVITY.

3. IT IS ALSO QUITE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT PM IS STALLING TO TEST POLITICAL WINDS HERE BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER CNO VISIT ADVISABLE AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT IN QUESTION OF RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE HERE. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, PRIME MINISTER IS PROBABLY STRONGEST SUPPORTER OF U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN GOB AND HAS DEEP SENSE OF PERSONAL OBLIGATION TO SENIOR U.S. NAVAL OFFICERS BECAUSE OF KINDNESSES EXTENDED OVER LAST YEAR DURING ILLNESS AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH HIS ELDEST SON IN CALIFORNIA. AS WAS EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION SECRETARY MIDDENDORF'S RECENT VISIT HERE, PRIME MINISTER IS GOB OFFICIAL MOST LIKELY TO WELCOME VISITS BY HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS IDENTIFIED WITH U.S. NAVY PRESENCE.

4. POSSIBLE SENSITIVITY AT MOMENT IS ONE OF APPEARANCES. U.S. PRESS LINKED MIDDENDORF VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION AS DID LOCAL RUMOR MILL. OBVIOUSLY SAME PROBLEM PERTAINS WITH CNO VISIT. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED TO RAISE MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY DESPITE GOB EFFORTS TO KEEP ISSUE OUT OF ASSEMBLY. GOB HAS MADE NO "FORMAL" DECISION ON MIDEASTFOR QUESTION AND IS PLAYING IT CLOSE TO CHEST. SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY PROBED ME TODAY DURING COURTESY CALL AS TO WHETHER STATIONING AGREEMENT WILL BE "RENEWED" OR SIMPLY ALLOWED TO "RUN ON INFORMALLY". I TURNED QUESTION ASIDE BY NOTING WE STILL DISCUSSING WITH GOB SOME QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NAVY'S STATUS HERE. GIVEN THIS DELICATE SITUATION, IT IS ESSENTIAL WE LET PRIME MINISTER WEIGH PROS AND CONS OF CNO VISIT AT THIS TIME. HE HAS ALREADY TOLD ME EMPHATICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH SECNAV VISIT THAT HE WELCOMES CALLS BY SENIOR NAVAL OFFICIALS AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE BUT INSIST THEY BE FULLY DISCUSSED WITH GOB AND NEVER ATTEMPTED "IN SECRET". BOTH PRIME MINISTER AND I WANT SITUATION IN WHICH CNO VISIT TO BAHRAIN WILL HAVE FULLEST POTENTIAL FOR FURTHERING NOT JUST NAVY'S STATUS HERE BUT ALSO OVERALL U.S.-BAHRAINI RELATIONS; HENCE TIMING MAY BE CRITICAL.

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5. ADDITIONAL FACTOR WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND IS THAT GOB HAS PUT OFF DISCUSSION OF RENT QUESTION UNTIL EARLY NOVEMBER AND IT MAY BE EXTREMELY HARD FOR CNO TO COME HERE AT THIS TIME WITHOUT BEING PUT ON SPOT ON THIS ISSUE.

6. HOPE TO RAISE VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 28 AND ADVISE ADDRESSEES SOONEST.

TWINAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 OCT 1974  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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